

## NOTES

### Interagency Sustainable Practices Group -- February 15, 2006

It was a jam-packed meeting, and there is a lot of information in these notes, so here's how they are organized:

1. Sustainability Planning Administrative Items
2. General Feedback on 2005 Progress Reports
3. Green Energy Presentation
4. Update on bills and issues related to sustainability
5. Updates from YOU

#### **1. Sustainability Planning Administrative Items**

- There is some concern that plan updates and progress reports are both due in the fall of 2006.
- Effort needs to be put into analyzing the E.O.s, the templates, the reporting format, and the data that is being asked for. It is important to do this soon since **Plan Updates are due Sept. 1, 2006** and **Progress Reports are due October 15, 2006**.
- There was a lively discussion about data - what is being asked for, how it is being reported, it's limitations, and what it can and can't tell us.
- Some things are difficult to track (more difficult in some agencies than others, especially POVs, miles traveled, and fuel use from tanks.)
- Concern was expressed that there was no acknowledgement of progress reports being received and no feedback.
- 2005 Progress Reports are not yet on the web.
- The next meeting (**early May**) will focus on **Performance Measures from GMAP** for sustainability planning purposes and program improvements. If you are interested in being part of a small group to look at performance measures, please let us know.
- We agreed that it is okay to meet off campus (yeah!). Revenue and DOC offered the use of their facilities.
- Other meeting topics suggested: biodiesel and composting. Optional summer tour of Ft.Lewis' sustainable operations.

#### **2. General Feedback on 2005 Progress Reports**

-- Overall, there was good progress in the areas of Paper and Vehicles: paper reduction, more recycled content paper, and fleet improvements.  
-- Agencies are working with the green building standards, though not all are getting certified.  
-- Progress is being made in energy and water reduction.

-- There were a few outstanding progress reports submitted! Since every agency is different in size, complexity, funding, and commitment, it impossible to compare. It made me think that we should identify good plans and reports for various types of agencies. [If you want to see a colorful, readable, well documented report from a complex agency, take a look at DOC's!]

-- A big issue is the inconsistency of data, and lack of data. This makes making more specific statements of progress impossible.  
-- Some agencies were just beginning to establish baseline data in 2005 or planning to in 2006.  
-- Many reports were minimum. Some did not include all of the required reporting elements. Many were incomplete.  
-- Only a couple mentioned progress in reducing toxins at all.  
-- There seemed to be very little correlation with Plans. I think by providing the reporting template, we missed out on getting information on other activities.

-- A couple did a good job reporting on objectives in the plan and showing progress in meeting the goals.

#### AGENCY ISSUES

-- Many agencies experienced staff turnover. Some were reporting on plans that they did not have anything to do with before.  
-- Small agencies have no staff to do the tracking and reporting.  
-- Some agencies are very complex.  
-- There is not money to buy more expensive items such as 100% recycled content paper, hybrid, or energy retrofits.

-- **Waste Issues:** fluorescent bulb, battery, and ink jet cartridge recycling; how to track reduction; how to measure recycling

-- **Purchasing Issues:** Not enough guidance; not enough information on how to reduce toxins; can't afford retrofits even when payback is good

-- **Buildings & Grounds:** LEED is difficult in older building remodels; lack of clear identification of environmentally preferable grounds products; difficult for small agencies and also those in leased buildings

-- **Vehicles:** need more info on location of biodiesel and users; lack of alternative fuels; OFM accounting practices make it difficult to get good data

-- Planning and reporting is difficult for some agencies because of many field offices or stations.

-- **There is no way to make any clear collective conclusions with this data.**

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

-- Lynn's departure last spring left a gap for a number of months without leadership.

-- To save the program, OFM and Ecology decided to collaborate and split duties. Managing this across two agencies can have some challenges.

-- We tried to provide some guidance, a way to capture data, but it led to confusion and maybe missed opportunities.

-- We should have spent more time on data and reporting issues.

### **3. Green Energy:**

[Liz Klumpp, Sr. Energy Policy Analyst, CTED, 360-956-2071](#)

[Here is Liz's presentation and a list of contact names at the utilities.](#)

<< File: sustainability presentation 2-06.ppt >>    << File: 2005 green power contacts and more.xls >>

- There were over 90 renewable energy bills introduced.
- For information on biodiesel bills, contact Tim Stearns, CTED, 206-256-612
- There are many renewable energy projects in the NW, and some underway.

#### **Who are the big buyers of green energy?**

Western WA University (100%); Evergreen State College (100%); UW; McCord, Fort Lewis

Commercial: Safeway, Whole Foods, Starbucks, Staples, Kinkos

A couple of state agencies are buying it now with green tags: **Utilities and Transportation Commission, Dept. of Ecology**

#### **Washington Aggregate Electricity Fuel Mix -- 2004**

Hydro:	66%
Coal:	18%
Natural Gas:	9%
Nuclear:	6%

Other: 1% (wind, landfill gas, waste, biomass, petroleum, other)

#### **How state agencies can purchase renewable energy:**

- Call your local utility. If utility doesn't have a program, as if they could make a purchase from BPA on your behalf. Negotiate for a bulk rate.
- Out of about 66 utilities in the state, about 50 of them have a program
- RFPs: State agencies can aggregate demand and issue joint RFP. Jim Leyshon at the National Renewables Energy Lab is collection RFPs and disseminating
- You do pay more for green energy. Bulk rate at Puget Sound Energy is \$0.01/kWh
- Some customers object to paying more and believe everyone should pay
- DSHS: Did Energy Performance Contracting, and reduced energy so much, they have to pay deficiency charges (\$12,000/yr)
- Sometimes you have to combine quick payback and long payback projects together to get the short one through.
- DFW: Puget Energy provides grants for RCMs
- OFM: Jim Cahill will look into rules that say if agencies can capture savings and reinvest. The RCW may say agencies can reinvest.

[From Jim Cahill, post meeting:](#)

Guidance on the use of revenues from recycling is found in the OFM Statewide Administrative and Accounting Manual (SAAM)85.32.80. It says that the revenue from recycling either goes to the fund that supports the recycling efforts or can be used to cover current biennium expenses for operating the recycling program.

With this language it would appear that the revenues could be used to help pay for agency recycling programs. I would ask that your agency contract OFM accounting for a more definitive guidance on what would and would not be allowable.

Here is a link to the exact language in the SAAM manual.

[<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/policy/85.32.doc>](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/policy/85.32.doc)

[From Janine Bogar, post meeting:](#) I did some searching and found **RCW 43.41.170** that allows energy savings to be retained!

#### **4. Update on bills and issues related to sustainability**

Kathleen Drew, Sustainability Policy Analyst

- Under the Governor's energy program, five new Resource Conservation Managers (RCM) positions have been proposed.
- Puget Sound Initiative - a couple of bills to address specific issues
- Electronic waste - bill that calls on manufacturers to safely manage electronic waste
- Bill to set limits set on phosphorus in dish washing soap
- PBDE (flame retardants) bill passed
- CTR - changes to the program gives more tools to locals.

#### **5. Updates from YOU**

We had four great presentations from agency planners.

A couple people mentioned articles in the **Closed-Loop Scoop Newsletter**, so here is the link to the February 2006 edition:.

[<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0607001.pdf>](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0607001.pdf)

READ ABOUT: Ft. Worden's Worms --- Biomass Energy --- DOC's Green Buildings --- Straw-to-Paper project

Billie-Gwen Russell, State Parks

- PSE energy audit completed at Lake Sammamish in **Jan. 2004**
- In **Feb. 2004** PSE energy audit completed at State Parks Equipment Shops (located inside of Lake Sammamish SP)
- Lake Sammamish SP staff completed upgrades per audit and received a \$2,500 rebate (about 60% of costs for new equipment)  
*Since park did all labor by our staff, the pay back period was only 4 months and have been saving every since on bills!*
- The EQ Shops Audit was reviewed a number of times, since the upfront costs were high! Finally last summer the new region manager and park manager decided to **invest from funds in July 2005**; purchasing all the equipment needed to complete the lighting upgrades recommended for the Eq Shops and held the Eq until winter a slow time on year ...
- The work to install equipment **upgrades is being done this winter with the help of staff from other parks who have been adjusting their work schedules to get this big job done.**
- After the job is done, and PSE completes an inspection, and I sign the contracts etc. a check for about \$12,000 will be given to this park as their rebate for the Eq Shops lighting upgrade.  
This money from PSE to Lake Sammamish will offset costs of natural resource stewardship projects such as the **January 17th 2006** by King Co. high school students have completed trail work - all very sustainable practices.

Tammy Owings, IAC

IAC manages many grants, and grants have a lot of paperwork. Staff insisted on having office copies for reference as well as archived copies. When they needed the cubicles where 8 files cabinets full of paper were, they scanned the documents, and eliminated all of that paper storage and future paper use.

Janine Bogar, Corrections

- Corrections has 9 LEED buildings - either completed or in the works.
- They had the first LEED correctional facility, and will have the first LEED inmate housing.
- Some facilities now use hybrid vehicles for perimeter control. They like that these vehicles are quiet and also have good visibility.
- On a state-wide base, 29% less waste is sent to landfills, in part due to 5 food waste composting systems.

Kristi Lynett, Fish and Wildlife

- Puget Sound Energy is now offering a free program to install controls on cold beverage vending machine that can reduce energy consumption by half, resulting in over \$100 in savings per year. WDFW is currently installing them in their facilities. For more info, call PSE at 1-800-562-1482.
- WDFW is now recycling electronic media (disks and cds...) for a small fee through a company called Greendisks. They have recycled over 100 lbs at their headquarters building since the fall. <http://www.greendisk.com/> They also offer verified data destruction.
- Snohomish PUD assisted with an energy audit at our Mill Creek Regional Office. We are now soliciting bids for lighting retrofit. With a grant from the PUD, the payback period will likely be under 5 years.

Thanks everyone for your inspiring stories and resources.

***Thanks for a good meeting!***

***Patricia***

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***Patricia Jatzak***

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